

Message Text

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ORIGIN XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-02 /046 R

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NEA:IRN:RBEALES

NEA:ARN:PBULK

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R 210658Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS STATE 041831

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, OTRA, TU, IR, SY

SUBJ: VISIT OF EXIMBANK OFFICIALS

1. EXIMBANK PLANNING TO SEND TEAM CONSISTING OF TOM MORAN, DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT AND CHARLES HAMMOND, ECONOMIST, AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST DIVISION TO TURKEY, SYRIA, AND IRAN FROM MARCH 5 THROUGH MARCH 22. PROPOSED ITINERARY TO FOLLOW. APPRECIATE COMMENTS AS TO TIMING OF TRIP.

2. FOR SYRIA. EXIMBANK HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE IN SYRIA FOR SOME TIME BECAUSE OF OUTSTANDING BOUSTANY CLAIM AND DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. EXIM TEAM WOULD WISH TO HAVE ASSESSMENT AND OUTLOOK OF ECONOMY. WHEN ITINERARY FIRM, WOULD EMBASSY ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AND BANKING OFFICIALS.

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3. FOR TURKEY. EXIMBANK TEAM WISHES TO HAVE FULL REVIEW OF

TURKISH ECONOMY IN VIEW OF WORSENING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES. EXIMBANK RECEIVING INCREASED REQUESTS FOR FINANCING AND DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY GREATER EXPOSURE IN VIEW OF CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK. APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY AND AMCONSUL ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AND BANKING OFFICIALS. SOME SUGGESTED APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE WITH YAPI VE KREDI, TURKISH FOREIGN TRADE BANK, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AKBANK, IS BANKASI, SABANCI GROUP (COSKUNOGLU OF LASSI), KOC HOLDING (NAHUM), STATE HYDRAULICS WORKS, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, TEK, AND OTHERS AS APPROPRIATE.

4. FOR IRAN. EXIM RECEIVING REQUESTS FOR FINANCING IN IRAN AFTER TWO YEAR PERIOD OF LITTLE ACTIVITY. EXIM TEAM WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS THE PROJECTS FOR WHICH IRAN LIKELY TO BE SEEKING EXIM FINANCING. TEAM ALSO INTERESTED IN REVIEWING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN IRAN WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AND BANKING OFFICIALS. SOME SUGGESTED APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE WITH THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE (ASHRAFI), CENTRAL BANK (MEHIAN), BANK MELLI, INDUSTRIAL CREDIT BANK, IMDBI, NIGS (GAS PIPELINE PROJECT, IGAT-2), POLYACRYL IRAN CORP. (LADJEVARDI) IN CONNECTION WITH NEW POLYESTER PLANT, AND NATIONAL PETROLEUM CO. (FIROOZ SAHAMI). INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE041831
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: XMB:CHARLES HAMMOND
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760065-0901
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760227/aaaaaxcq.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN XMB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF EXIMBANK OFFICIALS
TAGS: ECON, OTRA, TU, IR, SY, XMB, (MORAN, TOM)
To: ANKARA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006